



# Somalis Harmonizing Inter-Intra Communal Relationships (SHIIR)



Youth engaged in sports drills that teach new ways to resolve conflict and build cross-clan friendships.

**Funding Level:**  
\$1.5 million

**Duration:**  
October 2016 – September 2018

**Activity Goals:**

- Enhance community social reconciliation
- Promote civic education and awareness
- Empower Somali communities to actively participate in state building.

**Activity Accomplishments:**

- Conducted 48 trauma healing sessions benefiting 480 participants
- Conducted sports activities for over 1000 male youth
- Brought together over 2,280 community members from divided factions through traditional and cultural events

## ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Many communities in Somalia are plagued by long-standing and deep-rooted inter-communal tensions that have not been adequately addressed after years of hardening. These tensions negatively impact community cohesion and must be delicately managed while communities work toward a resolution, which enables them to collectively influence the formation of new, transparent and representative government structures.

USAID's conflict mitigation and management program, Somalis Harmonizing Inter-Intra Communal Relationships (SHIIR) enhances community social reconciliation and promotes civic education and awareness so that Somali communities are empowered to actively participate in state building.

## ACTIVITY AREAS

SHIIR works with local partners specifically in four districts in Jubaland – Belet Hawa, Dolow and Elwak in Gedo, and Afmadow (Dhobley Town) in Juba with a focus on building sustainable mechanisms to resolve conflict peacefully, address root causes and effects of conflict, and support inclusive peace processes and agreements.

This program supports social reconciliation activities designed to enable communities to become: more cohesive; begin to construct shared identities; increase their basic knowledge around good governance; and identify a way forward to collectively advocate for state building processes that are inclusive and will promote transparent, credible governance.

## ACTIVITY IMPACT

Over the last year SHIIR has completed 49 trauma healing sessions with 480 people. Participants learned the causes and symptoms of trauma in their communities, the connection between trauma and conflict, and the process of individual and communal healing. Following the conclusion of these sessions, the participants then conducted sessions for larger groups in their district, which built their capacity to serve as leaders and peace-builders in their communities.

Over 2,280 people (1,200 female) across the four districts attended social reconciliation sessions where they interacted with diverse clans. Through their engagement in traditional and

**Implementing Partner:**  
PACT

**Activity Locations:**

Jubaland - Belet Hawa, Dolow and Elwak in Gedo and Afmadow in Juba

**Key Partners:**

- Elwak Somalia Peace Committee (ESPC)
- Integrated Development Focus (IDF)
- Wamo Relief and Rehabilitation Services (WRRS)
- Community Empowerment and Development Action (CEDA)

cultural activities they openly confronted their animosities and began to reconcile their differences.

SHIR has also brought together more than 1000 youth through sports in BeletHawa and three other communities along the Somalia-Kenya border. Through sports drills these youth are learning new ways to resolve conflicts and build cross-clan friendships. These interactions are providing youth with the skills they need to break down social barriers, demystify each other's clans, and create inter-clan social bonds.

SHIR-trained coaches infuse sports drills with practical approaches to handling conflict resolution and with the skills to help them successfully navigate every day interactions in respectful ways. Originally developed by the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), the exercises initially appear to be a set of standard soccer drills, but once on the field, the games teach an array of lessons on fairness, resource sharing in communities and inclusion, which strengthen community resilience and lead to guided self-reflection.

For more information contact:  
[usaidsomalia-info@usaid.gov](mailto:usaidsomalia-info@usaid.gov)

Follow us on our web site:  
[www.usaid.gov/somalia](http://www.usaid.gov/somalia)  
and on Twitter: [@USAIDSomalia](https://twitter.com/USAIDSomalia)